

(b) if so, the guidelines issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) Sir, the freedom fighters are entitled to register their demand for one telephone connection under "Non-OYT-Swatantra Senani" Category at a place where he/she is normally available. Freedom fighters are provided telephone without payment of installation charges and are charged only half the normal rentals.

[Translation]

Unsuccessful Satellite Money Order Scheme

5236. SHRI SHYAM LAL BANSHIWAL:

SHRI ANAND RATAN MAURYA:

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the scheme of sending money orders through satellite started with great fanfare has failed to meet its objectives;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether steps have been taken for making this scheme successful; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) For making the scheme of "Satellite Money Order Service" successful the Department has initiated following measures:

(i) Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) has got two ports. Previously only one port was activated which was used for transmission and receipt of data. Now, the Department has activated the 2nd Port also to increase the traffic. While the one Port is being used exclusively for receipt of data the 2nd Port is used for transmission of data.

(ii) Each VSAT Centre is, now, being linked with 5 more Post Offices where MODEMS and computers are under installation for one line receipt and transmission of data directly in these identified Post Offices. 220 MODEMS have already been installed which has resulted in increase in the traffic of money order and Hybrid Mail Service.

(iii) VSAT Centres have been ordered to be kept open at night

(iv) Satellite Money order software has been upgraded which has now the enhanced capability of exchange of data amongst the VSATs with Single access.

(v) For ensuring optimum utilisation of VSATs a monthly control statement has been prescribed which is reviewed and analysed in the Directorate.

Above, measures have resulted in 337% increase in

the Satellite based transmission of Money Orders during the month of March, 1997 as compared to the figures for September, 1996. Similarly, Hybrid Mail Service has increased by 76% from September, 1996 to March, 1997.

[English]

Export of Steel

5237. SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is rise in Salem steel's exports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the foreign exchange earned by the export in 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is an increase in the exports made by Salem Steel Plant in 1996-97 over 1995-96 as given below:

Year	Quantity of Export ('000 T)
1995-96	7
1996-97	25 (Prov.)

(c) The value of foreign exchange earned by the export in 1996-97 is Rs. 175 crores (Prov.).

SC/ST in Rail Service

5238. SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that percentage of representation in rail service of SC/ST is microscopic minority, particularly in higher grade services;

(b) the details of percentage of representation of SC/ST in rail services, grade-wise;

(c) the figures and percentages of SC/ST in rail services in respect of reservation in promotion are concerned; and

(d) the steps are being taken to absorb SC/ST in rail services and to clear the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) The representation as on 31.3.96 of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Railway Services are as follows:

	SC	ST
Group 'A'	14.33%	5.49%
Group 'B'	17.26%	4.60%
Group 'C'	15.11%	5.52%
Group 'D'	17.75%	8.58%
(Excluding Safaiwalas)		
Group 'D' (Safaiwalas)	72.36%	5.19%
Grand Total	18.06%	6.72%